

---

**In the Specification**

Please amend the specification as follows:

Please substitute the amended "Summary of the Invention", submitted herewith, for that previously filed in the application. A "clean" copy of the amended "Summary of the Invention" is submitted herewith as Appendix B; a marked copy (indicating the changes made) of the amended "Summary of the Invention" is submitted herewith as Appendix C.

Please substitute the amended Fig. 4, submitted herewith, for those previously filed. The amended figure, as well as red-marked versions showing the changes, is submitted herewith as Appendix D.

Please substitute the amended portions of the specification, submitted herewith, for that previously filed. A clean version of the amended Specification paragraphs is submitted herewith as Appendix E. A marked version of the amended Specification paragraphs is submitted herewith as Appendix F. A clean version of the amended Abstract is submitted herewith as Appendix G. A marked version of the amended Abstract is submitted herewith as Appendix H.

---

**In the Claims**

Please **CANCEL** claims 9-19 and 22-31 without prejudice and **ADD** new claims 32-52.

DA 32. (New) A pant-like, prefastened, refastenable, disposable absorbent article which defines a front waist region, a back waist region, a crotch region which extends between and connects said waist regions, a longitudinal direction and a lateral direction, said absorbent article further comprising:

a) an absorbent chassis which defines an exterior surface, an interior surface opposite said exterior surface, a pair of laterally opposed side edges and a pair of longitudinally opposed waist edges;

b) a pair of opposed elastic back panels which are respectively permanently attached to said side edge of said absorbent chassis in said back waist region of said absorbent article; and

c) a pair of opposed elastic front panels which are respectively refastenably attached to said side edge of said absorbent chassis in said front waist region of said absorbent article to provide a refastenable joint wherein said front panel and said back panel on each side edge of said absorbent chassis are permanently connected together along a side seam to define a waist

opening and a pair of leg openings and provide said pant-like, prefastened, refastenable, disposable absorbent article.

33. (New) The absorbent article of claim 32 wherein each of said side seams defines a lateral outboard edge of said article.

34. (New) The absorbent article of claim 32 and further comprising a fastener located on each of said front panels which is refastenably engaged with said exterior surface of said absorbent chassis in said front waist region to provide said refastenable joint.

35. (New) The absorbent article of claim 34 wherein said fasteners are hook and loop fasteners.

36. (New) The absorbent article of claim 34 and further comprising at least one attachment panel which is located on said exterior surface of said absorbent chassis wherein said fasteners are refastenably engaged to said attachment panel.

37. (New) The absorbent article of claim 34 wherein said absorbent chassis includes an outer cover which provides said exterior surface and wherein said fasteners are refastenably engaged directly to said outer cover.

38. (New) The absorbent article of claim 32 wherein said absorbent chassis comprises:

- a) an outer cover;
- b) a bodyside liner which is connected to said outer cover in a superposed relation; and
- c) an absorbent core disposed between said outer cover and said bodyside liner.

39. (New) The absorbent article of claim 32 wherein said front and back panels are a neck-bonded laminate material.

40. (New) A pant-like, prefastened, refastenable, disposable absorbent article which defines a front waist region, a back waist region, a crotch region which extends between and connects said waist regions, a longitudinal direction and a lateral direction, said absorbent article further comprising:

a) an absorbent chassis which defines an exterior surface, an interior surface opposite said exterior surface, a pair of laterally opposed side edges and a pair of longitudinally opposed waist edges;

b) a pair of opposed elastic back panels which are respectively permanently attached to said side edge of said absorbent chassis in said back waist region of said absorbent article;

D) c) a pair of opposed elastic front panels which are respectively refastenably attached to said side edge of said absorbent chassis in said front waist region of said absorbent article to provide a refastenable joint wherein said front panel and said back panel on each side edge of said absorbent chassis are permanently connected together along a side seam to define a waist opening and a pair of leg openings and provide said pant-like, prefastened, refastenable, disposable absorbent article;

d) a fastener located on each of said front panels which is releasably engaged with said exterior surface of said absorbent chassis in said front waist region to provide said refastenable joint; and

e) a releasable bond located on each of said front panels which releasably bonds said front panels to said side edges of said absorbent chassis in said front waist region to assist in maintaining said pant-like, prefastened, refastenable, disposable absorbent article in said prefastened condition.

41. (New) The absorbent article of claim 40 wherein said absorbent chassis comprises:

a) an outer cover;

b) a bodyside liner which is connected to said outer cover in a superposed relation; and

c) an absorbent core disposed between said outer cover and said bodyside liner.

42. (New) The absorbent article of claim 40 wherein said fasteners are hook and loop fasteners.

43. (New) The absorbent article of claim 40 and further comprising at least one attachment panel which is located on said exterior surface of said absorbent chassis wherein said fasteners are refastenably engaged to said attachment panel.

44. (New) The absorbent article of claim 41 wherein said fasteners are refastenably engaged directly to said outer cover of said absorbent chassis.

45. (New) The absorbent article of claim 40 wherein each of said side seams defines a lateral outboard edge of said article.

DI 46. (New) The absorbent article of claim 40 wherein said releasable bonds include at least one point bond.

47. (New) The absorbent article of claim 40 wherein said releasable bonds are ultrasonic bonds.

48. (New) The absorbent article of claim 40 wherein said releasable bonds define a peel strength of no more than about 1500 grams.

49. (New) A pant-like, prefastened, refastenable, disposable absorbent article which defines a front waist region, a back waist region, a crotch region which extends between and connects said waist regions, an absorbent chassis which defines a pair of opposed side edges and a pair of opposed waist edges, wherein said pant-like, disposable absorbent article is made by a process which comprises:

a) providing a continuous web of interconnected absorbent chassis;

b) permanently attaching a pair of laterally opposed elastic back panels to said side edges of each of said absorbent chassis in one of said front waist region or said back waist region to provide a permanent joint;

c) refastenably attaching a pair of laterally opposed elastic front panels to said side edges of each of said absorbent chassis in said opposite waist region of said absorbent article to provide a refastenable joint;

d) selectively cutting said continuous web of interconnected absorbent chassis into discrete absorbent articles;

e) folding each of said discrete absorbent articles about a fold line extending in a lateral direction through said crotch region of said article thereby positioning said front panels and said back panels in a facing relationship; and

DI f) permanently connecting said front panels and said back panels together along a pair of laterally opposed side seams to define a waist opening and a pair of leg openings and provide said pant-like, prefasted, refastenable, disposable absorbent article.

50. (New) The absorbent article of claim 49 wherein said refastenably attaching includes refastenably engaging a fastener located on each of said front panels to said exterior surface of each of said absorbent chassis in said front waist region to provide said refastenable joint.

51. (New) The absorbent article of claim 50 wherein said fasteners are hook and loop fasteners.

52. (New) The absorbent article of claim 50 wherein said refastenably attaching includes ultrasonically bonding said front panels to said side edges of said absorbent chassis in said front waist region to assist said fasteners in providing said refastenable joints.

---

## Remarks

The present preliminary amendment is being filed concurrent with a Continued Prosecution Application pursuant to 37 CFR 1.53(d), and is also responsive to the Final Office Action dated September 18, 2002 in the Parent Application. Accordingly, Claims 32-52 are presented in this Application for the Examiner's consideration. Claims 9-19 and 22-31 have been canceled. New claims 32-52 were added and generally correspond to the inventions disclosed in canceled claims 9-19 and 22-31 respectively. In addition, claims 32 and 40, which generally correspond to original claims 9 and 15, respectively, have been rewritten as suggested by the Examiner to address identified informalities. Support for these claims appears throughout the specification. Moreover,